

House
REPUBLICAN
Conference

FloorPrep

Legislative Digest

Thursday, February 5, 1998

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 2846—Prohibiting Spending Federal Education Funds on National Testing
S. 1575—Designating the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport
Overriding the President's Veto of H.R. 2631, Disapproving Cancelled Projects
in the Military Construction Appropriations Act

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H.R. 2846—Prohibiting Spending Federal Education Funds on National Testing

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 2846 as its first order of business today. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted an open rule providing for one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Education & the Workforce Committee. It also makes in order an Education Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute as base text. The rule gives priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The rule allows the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill, and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 2846 (1) amends the General Education Provisions Act to prohibit the use of funds provided to the Department of Education to develop, plan, implement, or administer any national testing program; and (2) amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a similar prohibition against using funds from the Fund for the Improvement Education for any national testing program. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Goodling and was reported by the Education & the Workforce Committee by a vote of 23-16.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of the bill. The Clinton Administration strongly opposes the bill and has threatened to veto it.

Amendments: At the close of business, the *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following amendments to H.R. 2846:

Mr. Clay may offer an amendment in the nature of a substitute which consists of the text of the Public Schools Renewal and Improvement Act (H.R. 1436). The amendment (1) requires local consortiums to submit requests to the president for a declaration that a “major public schools renewal effort is underway” in that community; (2) authorizes the Secretary of Education and the president to approve the consortium’s request for assistance and to direct various types of federal assistance; and (3) authorizes \$250 million for FY 1998, \$500 million for FY 1999, and such sums as necessary for FY 2000. *Staff Contact: Mark Zuckerman, x5-3725*

Mr. Martinez may offer an amendment in the nature of a substitute which authorizes \$5 billion for school construction and renovations in FY 1998. Specifically, the amendment allocates \$2.45 billion to help states increase school construction and renovations; \$1.75 billion to cover needs of the 100 school districts that enroll the greatest numbers of children living in poverty; and \$700 million to schools on a competitive grant basis, equally divided between urban and non-urban schools. It also provides flexibility to states by reducing interest or other financing costs of new school construction and renovation. *Staff Contact: Mark Zuckerman, x5-3725*

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #1, January 30, 1998.

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S. 1575—Designating the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport

Floor Situation: The House will consider S. 1575 after it completes consideration of H.R. 2846. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a closed rule providing for one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit.

Summary: S. 1575 redesignates Washington National Airport as the “Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.” Yesterday, the Senate passed the bill by a vote of 76-22. The House passed a similar measure, H.R. 2625, by a vote of 240-186 to redesignate the Washington National Airport as the “Ronald Reagan National Airport.”

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of the bill. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was unavailable at press time.

Other Information: For information on H.R. 2625 as it went to the House floor, see *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #1, January 30, 1998.

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Overriding the President's Veto of H.R. 2631, Disapproving Cancelled Projects in the Military Construction Appropriations Act

Floor Situation: After the House completes consideration of S. 1575, Mr. Packard is expected to offer a motion, debatable for one hour, to override the president's veto of H.R. 2631.

Summary: The House will consider whether to override the president's veto of H.R. 2631, which disapproved the line-item veto of 38 projects from the FY 1998 Military Construction Appropriations Act (*P.L. 105-45*). On September 30, 1997, President Clinton signed the \$9.2 billion military construction bill and on October 6, he used the line-item veto to cancel 38 projects, amounting to \$287 million and affecting 24 states. On November 8, 1997, the House passed H.R. 2631, which disapproved the cancellation of these projects by a vote of 352-64; the Senate passed the bill by voice vote on November 9, 1997. The measure was then sent to the president and vetoed on November 13, 1997.

The Line-Item Veto Act (*P.L. 104-130*) authorizes the president—within five days of signing a specific bill—to cancel (1) a dollar amount of discretionary budget authority provided in an appropriation bill or in an accompanying report, (2) an item of new direct spending, or (3) a limited tax benefit. The president must determine that any cancellation made will reduce the federal deficit and will not impair essential government functions. Any Representative or Senator may introduce a disapproval bill to override any or all of the cancellations included in the president's message. If the two bodies pass differing versions of the disapproval bill a conference may be convened. If a disapproval bill passes both houses, it is then forwarded to the president, who would presumably veto the bill. Congress may then override the veto with a two-thirds vote of both houses.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of the bill. The Clinton Administration opposes the measure.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #1, January 30, 1998.

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Amendment

Alert!

Please attach the text of the amendment (if available) and fax to the *Legislative Digest* at x5-7298

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

Member Sponsoring Amendment: _____ Bill #: _____

Additional Co-sponsors (if any): _____

Staff Contact: _____ Phone #: _____ Evening Phone #: _____

Description of the amendment: _____

(Please include any additional or contextual information)

Reason for offering amendment (e.g., How will this change the bill or current law? Why should members support this change?): _____

Legislative Digest reserves the right to edit descriptions for style, readability, and provisional accuracy.

